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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS

Discover the fascinating,
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VIDEO GAMES

p12



This week's big news



DID YOU KNOW?

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, is a popular vacation spot whose name means "city of peace" in Arabic.



The mountains and the sea in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

Egypt fact file



- **CAPITAL:** Cairo
- **POPULATION:** 104.2 million
- **SIZE:** 390,121 square miles
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Deserts divided by the Nile River
- **LEADER:** President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
- **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Arabic
- **OFFICIAL RELIGION:** Islam
- **CURRENCY:** Egyptian pound
- **ECONOMY:** Agriculture, manufacturing, tourism

Climate summit to start in Egypt

When *The Week Junior* went to press on November 1, world leaders were preparing to gather for the COP27 summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to set goals for tackling climate change. The meeting, scheduled to begin on November 6, is being held in Egypt for the first time and in an African nation for the fifth time.

What is COP27?

The 12-day event is held by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation). COP stands for Conference of the Parties and includes the 198 countries that have signed onto the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, a treaty created in 1992. At COP meetings, nations decide what steps need to be taken to combat climate change and commit to taking them. They also issue and discuss scientific studies. At the third COP meeting in 1997, nations adopted the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement that requires each government to meet specific climate targets.

Who will attend?

Leaders of more than 200 nations were invited to COP27. Discussing the event, UN head António

Guterres said, "I urge all leaders to bring back climate change to the center of the international debate." Those attending include US President Joe Biden. Among those not attending are Russian President Vladimir Putin and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The event also draws scientists, climate experts, environmental organizations, businesses, and community groups. There are usually protesters at COP meetings, but there may be fewer this year because Egypt has a history of arresting people who demonstrate against the government. Because of the nation's poor human rights record, the leaders of several major corporations will not attend.



António Guterres, head of the UN

What are COP27's goals?

COP27 will focus on three areas: reducing emissions, helping nations prepare for and deal with climate change, and setting aside money for developing countries (countries that have less money) to prepare for a warming planet. The conference will also revisit issues from COP26 and earlier summits, including finding funds to help nations recover from climate disasters and reducing the use of coal, a fuel that contributes to climate change. At COP26, the US and China, which are responsible for most of

the world's pollution, agreed to work together to tackle climate change, including sharing the development of new technology. In 2009, the world's wealthier nations vowed to give \$100 billion a year to developing countries by 2020 to help them cut emissions and prepare for climate change. That date was later pushed back to 2023.

How are young people involved?

In the past, young people held a separate event, called Youth4Climate, before COP to encourage action. This year, for the first time, COP will include a Children and Youth Pavilion where young activists will hold discussions and explain policy goals. The pavilion is an acknowledgment that young people should play a key role in determining the planet's future. "A child born today would experience four times the extreme weather events [that] we do," said Omnia El Omrani, the first-ever Youth Envoy at a COP meeting. "This impact is unjust. Our world leaders must act immediately."

What will happen next?

During the conference, COP27 leaders will announce new progress and commitments to fighting climate change that they have negotiated. COP28 will be held next year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the second time the summit will take place in the Middle East.



Space station dodges debris

On October 24, the International Space Station (ISS) performed a maneuver to avoid a collision with space junk. The junk was a small piece of a destroyed Russian satellite. The ISS orbits about 250 miles above Earth. It is a joint project of 15 countries, including the US, where astronauts carry out space-based missions and research.

The debris came from a satellite called Cosmos 1408. Russia intentionally destroyed it in 2021, creating about 1,500 pieces of debris. If the ISS had not moved, it would have come within three miles of a piece of debris, which could have damaged the ship and put the astronauts on board at risk. NASA (the US space agency) said a series of thrusters were fired on the ISS for five minutes and five seconds, lifting it between 0.2 and 0.8 of a mile.

Space junk is a growing concern among space agencies around the world. Since the 1950s, thousands of rockets and satellites have been launched into space, and many are no longer in use. Experts say potential collisions between the ISS and space junk could become more frequent.



The ISS



Day of the Dead decorations

SWEET SKULLS

Skulls, a common symbol of the Day of the Dead, are often made of sugar or chocolate.

Day of the Dead is marked

A Mexican holiday called the Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos* in Spanish) was celebrated on November 1 and 2. While it honors people who have died, Day of the Dead is a joyful celebration of life and loved ones. Its roots go back thousands of years to traditions held by Indigenous peoples (first people known to have inhabited a place), such as the Aztecs.

Today the holiday combines Indigenous traditions with Catholic customs. An important part of the holiday are altars (*ofrendas* in Spanish), which families set up to welcome the spirits of the dead. The altars are decorated with candles, family photos, the deceased person's favorite food and drink, and a glass of water to quench the spirit's thirst after the

journey. Marigold flowers and decorative skulls are also placed on the altars.

Other traditions include placing flowers and candles on loved ones' graves, dressing up in costumes, and hanging cut paper artwork called *papel picado*. *Pan de muerto*, bread of the dead, is decorated with bones made of dough.

In Mexico, one of the best-known parades is held in Mexico City and a festival takes place in Aguascalientes. In the US, a community altar was set up in a park in Los Angeles, California, and organizers in Salt Lake City, Utah, hoped to set a world record for the most photos on a Day of the Dead altar. President Joe Biden marked the holiday with what was thought to be the first-ever *ofrenda* in the White House.



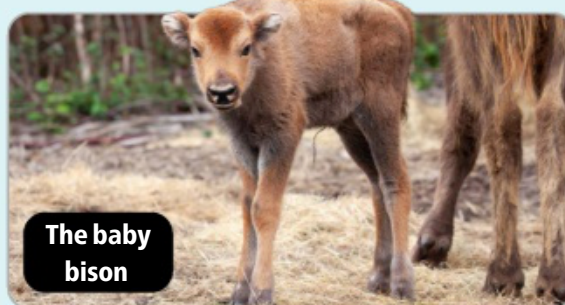
IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

BREAKING MUSIC RECORDS

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has become the first artist to claim all the top 10 slots on the Billboard Hot 100 songs chart. Her new album, *Midnights*, also had the biggest-ever streaming week for an album by a female artist.



Taylor Swift



The baby bison

A BISON BIRTH

For the first time in thousands of years, a wild bison calf was born in the UK. The animals had been extinct in the area, but wildlife experts hoping to bring them back released three into the woods in July. To the experts' delight, one was pregnant and gave birth to a female calf.

DRESSED-UP DOGS

The costumes were arf-mazing at the 32nd annual Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Festival in New York City. Hundreds of pet pooches participated in a parade and costume contest. Clever costumes ranged from King Tut and the Incredible Hulk to a Pokémon, chef, scarecrow, and subway conductor (shown below).



A canine in costume



National news

WOW!

As many as 25 million children ride school buses each day in the US.



Vice President Kamala Harris, far right, greets students as she tours electric school buses.

Increasing internet access



The USDA (US agency that supports rural economic development) will spend \$759 million to provide internet access to people living in rural areas in 24 states and in US territories, such as Puerto Rico. Having high-speed internet access will help schools educate children and help people run their businesses.

US to provide funds for electric school buses

On October 26, Vice President Kamala Harris said the US government will spend nearly \$1 billion to enable public school districts in all 50 states and Washington, DC, to apply to buy electric school buses (ESBs). Harris announced the plan at a school in Seattle, Washington, with Michael Regan, head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

What is the plan?

The program will allocate \$965 million to purchase nearly 2,500 ESBs. In May, the government had planned to spend \$500 million on ESBs. Due to overwhelming demand from schools, the amount was increased. The program is part of an effort by President Joe Biden to help the country rely less on traditional vehicles that burn gasoline and diesel.

Why is this significant?

Traditional vehicles, including buses, burn gas and diesel, causing them to emit greenhouse gases, which are harmful to the environment and contribute to climate change. Like other electric vehicles, ESBs are propelled by rechargeable batteries, which do not have a negative effect on the environment. ESBs cost less to maintain and operate than traditional vehicles. They also pose fewer health risks. Studies have found that when people are exposed to diesel exhaust, they may be at an increased risk of developing respiratory conditions, such as asthma.

When and where will the buses be used?

Many of the electric buses will be delivered by summer 2023, before the start of the next school

year. The rest will reach schools by the end of 2023. Special charging stations will be installed at the schools to plug in the ESBs and recharge them. School districts that serve low-income, rural, or tribal students make up 99% of the schools that were selected to get the first ESBs. Many of these schools are located in Alaska, Wyoming, and West Virginia, and in major cities, including New York City; Los Angeles, California; and Houston, Texas.

What will happen next?

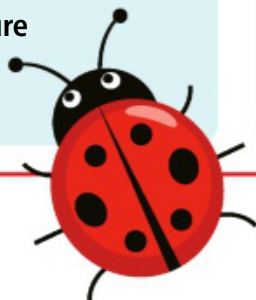
The ESBs will be made in the US, creating a new opportunity for American manufacturing, officials said. School districts that didn't get awarded funds to purchase ESBs this year can apply again in the future. The government said it plans to spend another \$4 billion on ESBs over the next four years.



WORD OF THE WEEK

INSECT

If you look closely at insects, you might notice that their body is divided into segments. It was these segments that inspired their name. "Insect" comes from the Latin *animal insectum*, meaning a "segmented animal," and it originally referred to any small creature with a segmented body that wasn't warm-blooded.



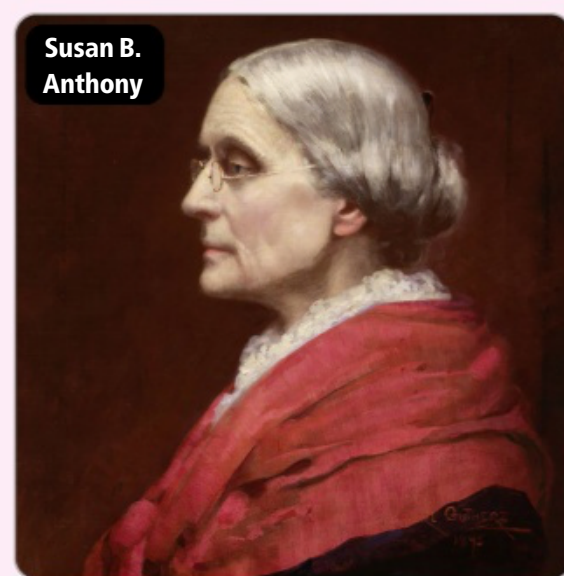
THE WEEK IN HISTORY

November 5, 1872

Susan B. Anthony votes in election

On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) voted in a US Presidential election. She was arrested and fined \$100 because it was illegal for women to vote. Anthony knew that, but she voted to bring attention to the cause of women's rights. In 1920, the 19th amendment was added to the Constitution (highest US law), granting women the right to vote.

Susan B. Anthony





A view of Mauna Loa

Huge volcano in Hawaii rumbles

The world's largest volcano, Mauna Loa, located on Hawaii's Big Island, is sending signals that it may erupt. Scientists have recorded an increase in earthquakes (rumbles) at the top of the volcano. An eruption wouldn't happen suddenly, experts said, but residents are being asked to be prepared if an evacuation becomes necessary. Mauna Loa, which last erupted in 1984, makes up 51% of the Big Island's land mass.

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 3.7 million people in the US identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.



The US is paying tribute to Native American families and traditions.



Fall is voted favorite US season

Fall is the season Americans enjoy most, according to a new survey of 2,210 people conducted by Morning Consult, a data company. It was the favorite season of 41% of respondents, with fall weather, changing leaf colors, and Thanksgiving the top reasons for choosing it. Spring and summer tied for second, with 24% of people voting for them. Winter came in last, with 11% choosing it.

New stamp to feature justice

The US Postal Service (USPS) announced that it will release a stamp to honor Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933–2020), who served as a justice on the US Supreme Court for 27 years. The USPS called Ginsburg "a passionate proponent of equal justice and an icon of American culture." The stamp, which will be released in 2023, depicts Ginsburg wearing a beaded collar that is said to have been her favorite. She is the first justice to be honored on a US postal stamp since 2003.



The stamp

Native American Heritage Month begins

November 1 marked the beginning of National Native American Heritage Month. The month celebrates Native and Indigenous peoples, the groups of people who were the first to inhabit America.

The effort to set time aside to honor Native Americans began in 1916, when the first American Indian Day was celebrated in New York. (American Indian is another name for Native American.) Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, rode across the US on horseback seeking approval from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians, according to the Census Bureau (US agency that records data about American people).

In 1990, the federal government first declared November to be National American Indian Heritage Month. Since 1994, it has been observed every year. During this month, people celebrate the traditions and histories of Native communities.

The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, announced that it will hold

free events throughout the month to "celebrate the diversity and contributions of Native cultures." Events will include a film showcase, cultural demonstrations, and a discussion for young people. The museum has also worked with other museums and government agencies to create the website nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov, which features Native history and stories, videos of traditional performances, virtual exhibitions, and more.

On November 1, the American Indian College Fund hosted a streaming concert with performances by Native and allied artists. Several colleges and universities have planned special presentations and activities. Colorado State University is hosting a powwow, a traditional gathering held by many Native American communities.

"America is a vast land of many cultures dating back thousands of years to the original inhabitants of the land," the National Park Service said. This month is a time to "ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive."



The National Museum of the American Indian

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Deer runs wild inside South Carolina restaurant" UPI





Around the world



Fela Kuti

Paris, France Exhibition honors musician

Fela Kuti, a Nigerian musician who helped create the music genre Afrobeat, is being honored by an exhibition at the Paris Philharmonic concert hall. The exhibition re-creates Kuti's famous nightclub called the Shrine. Kuti, who died in 1997, was a singer, trumpeter, saxophonist, pianist, and composer. He inspired many musical artists, like Paul McCartney, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, and Burna Boy. He also used music to protest Nigeria's government.



The train

Bergün, Switzerland Longest train completes trip

The world's longest passenger train completed a journey through the Alps mountains in Switzerland. The train, which had 100 cars and was 1.2 miles long, traveled 15.5 miles along a track that includes many tunnels and bridges. Train enthusiasts lined the route to watch the train wind through the Alps. The record train trip was taken to mark the 175th anniversary of Switzerland's first railway.



Luiz Inácio
Lula da Silva

Brazil Former president's stunning comeback

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, has been elected Brazil's next president. He defeated current President Jair Bolsonaro in a very close race. Da Silva, 77, was president for two terms between 2003 and 2010. He was accused of corruption in 2018 and jailed for 580 days. Da Silva vowed to unite the deeply divided country, saying, "We are one country, one people, one great nation."

Kasterlee, Belgium Paddlers race pumpkin boats

On October 23, people in the town of Kasterlee, Belgium, raced in giant pumpkins across a pond, an annual tradition. Dressed in costume, they raced in 65 relay teams. The pumpkin races began in 2008 when local growers didn't know what to do with their big pumpkins. One pumpkin paddler, Clara De Somer, told Reuters that the race is "hilarious."



The pumpkin
boat race



South Africa New king crowned

King Misuzulu ka Zwelithini, 48, was officially accepted as the new Zulu king by the South African government on October 29 in Durban. Thousands gathered for the coronation at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. Though Misuzulu was crowned in a ceremony in August, the president's certificate of recognition makes the crowning official. Misuzulu's father, Goodwill Zwelithini, was king from 1971 until his death in 2021.



Misuzulu
ka Zwelithini

SHUTTERSTOCK: ALAMY (3); FINBARR FALLON
GETTY IMAGES (4); NZ PARLIAMENT OFFICE

Around the world



A protest



Iran

Protests continue to escalate

People in Iran held more large protests against the government on October 30 after being warned not to by authorities. Students who took down partition walls meant to separate men and women in cafeterias were arrested. Protests began in September after the death of Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for showing her hair in public.



The Tihar festival



Lalitpur, Nepal

Hindu festival honors dogs

People in Nepal marked the second day of the Tihar festival, which is dedicated to worshipping dogs and highlighting their loyalty to humans. The five-day festival is associated with the Hindu god Yama, and each day is dedicated to a different animal. At the Sneha Care shelter, which is home to about 170 dogs, people spent the day giving dogs treats and placing orange garlands around their necks.



Wuhan



Wuhan, China

Government puts Wuhan in lockdown

Wuhan, the area of China where Covid-19 was first detected nearly three years ago in late 2019, went into lockdown from October 26 to October 30. In one district, more than 800,000 residents were told to stay at home. Wuhan has been reporting about 20 new coronavirus cases each day. Across China, other large cities are introducing lockdowns in an attempt to contain outbreaks of the virus.



Singapore

Green tower opens

A new 919-foot-tall skyscraper containing 80,000 plants has opened in Singapore. The office building is also a "green oasis" for people to visit and explore. On the top floor there is a 4,500-square-foot rooftop farm, which produces herbs, flowers, fruit, and vegetables for three restaurants in the building. It is estimated that the farm, which visitors can also walk through, grows between 154 and 220 pounds of produce each month.



The skyscraper



Soraya Peke-Mason



Wellington, New Zealand

Women lawmakers outnumber men

History was made in New Zealand on October 25 when, for the first time, there were more women who make laws in Parliament (government) than men. Soraya Peke-Mason replaced Trevor Mallard, who had resigned, to bring the total to 60 women and 59 men. Peke-Mason said, "While it's a special day for me, I think it's historic for New Zealand."



The big debate

Should people be eating more insects?

Some people say bugs are the best bet to feed the planet's growing population.

What you need to know

- Humans have eaten insects for thousands of years. Today, 2 billion people around the world eat them as a regular part of their diet.
- There are about 7.9 billion people on Earth. There will be 9.8 billion by 2050.
- Scientists and experts say people will have to find new ways to produce enough food for everyone.
- Crickets need one sixth the amount of food cows need to produce the same amount of protein, a nutrient that strengthens muscles and bones.



In North America, people often cringe at the thought of eating insects, but more than 2,000 species are already on the menu in parts of Africa, Asia, and South America. People eat everything from roasted cicadas to skewered scorpions, marinated mealworms, sauteed wax worms, coal-fired grubs, and fried termites. Currently, 75% of the world's food comes from just 12 plant and five animal species. To raise and grow these foods takes huge amounts of land, water, and other resources, which harms the environment. Food experts say bugs could be an Earth-friendly alternate source of protein. What do you think? Should people be eating more insects?

Yes—insects are nutritious and delicious

It's time to get over the idea that eating insects is gross. Bugs are packed with protein and vitamins, low-fat, and tasty. Cricket powder gives snack bars and smoothies a nutrition boost, and crunchy fried mealworms taste just like shrimp. Insects are already an important part of the daily diet in many countries, so why shouldn't we eat them too? A growing population and rising food costs mean the world needs to produce more food. Insects can be farmed in any climate, using less space and water than livestock like cattle, pigs, and sheep. Eating them is good for humans and great for the planet.

No—people don't need to eat bugs

Edible insects sound awful, and it's going to be hard to convince people otherwise. Besides, there are easier options for planet-friendly eating, such as consuming less meat and cutting food waste. In fact, scientists are already discovering ways to make alternative foods—for example, by creating meat in laboratories. People say keeping livestock in crowded conditions is wrong. If so, how are insect farms that breed millions of bugs any better? Bugs might seem small and scary, but being cruel to them is still wrong. Eating insects may be one way to help the planet, but there are kinder and more appetizing choices.

YES Three reasons people should be eating more insects

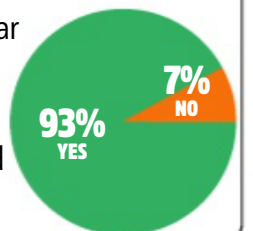
- 1 Insects are a healthy food, packed with protein and vitamins.
- 2 Many people around the world already eat bugs. We should give them a chance.
- 3 Raising insects instead of animals like cows and chickens is better for the environment. It means more food can be produced using fewer resources.

NO Three reasons people should not be eating more insects

- 1 Eating bugs is gross, and it's going to be tough to convince most people otherwise.
- 2 There are more appealing choices for planet-friendly eating, like cutting back on meat and growing meat in labs.
- 3 Farming insects in huge numbers is cruel. Just because they're small and people think they're scary doesn't make it OK.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if middle and high schools should have recess. Your answers were as loud and clear as a school bell: 93% said yes, and 7% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think people should be eating more insects or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Designing with feeling

Artist Maya Lin continues to create sculptures and buildings that tell stories.

Maya Lin, designer and sculptor, has created some of the most iconic works and spaces with the belief that art can address important issues. Her latest projects are no different, from museums to sculptures for Presidential centers.

Lin, 62, grew up in Ohio, the daughter of college professors who were Chinese immigrants. As a 21-year-old student at Yale University, she gained national prominence when her entry won a design competition for the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Her winning design—two black granite walls engraved with the names of US service members who died in the Vietnam War (1954–1975) or remain missing—is considered one of the most influential in modern architecture.

Lin went on to design the 1989 Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama,

and dozens of other projects globally, all with social and environmental justice in mind. She told *The Wall Street Journal* she uses facts in her art. She said, “I am going to present you with what the story is, but I am not going to draw the conclusion for you.”

Currently underway is Lin’s plan for the new Museum of Chinese in America in New York City. Lin said she wants it to be a celebration of Chinese American stories and contributions to the country.

Lin is also designing a sculpture to honor former President Barack Obama’s mother, who died in 1995, at the Obama Presidential Center in Illinois. When Obama awarded Lin the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, he called her work “physical acts of poetry, each reminding us that the most important element in art or architecture is human emotion.”



Lin receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



SPECIAL SITE

More than 5 million people visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, each year.

Maya Lin

Actor is mourned

Scottish actor and comedian Robbie Coltrane, best known as the beloved half-giant Rubeus Hagrid in the film adaptations of the *Harry Potter* books, died on October 14 at age 72. In his career of more than 40 years, he earned some of the top awards in his industry. Coltrane played Hagrid in all eight *Harry Potter* films. “The legacy of the movies is that my children’s generation will show them to their children,” Coltrane once said of the role. “You could be watching it in 50 years’ time, easy. I’ll not be here, sadly, but Hagrid will.”



Robbie Coltrane



Erdem Dulguun

Speller has new bee

Erdem Dulguun, a middle schooler from Virginia, organized the first official national spelling bee for Mongolian immigrants on October 22 in Washington, DC. Dulguun, age 13, is of Mongolian descent and, after finishing as the first runner-up at the 2021 Fairfax County Spelling Bee, wanted to inspire fellow Mongolian American students to become sharp spellers. He began tutoring many over Zoom after school. Then he connected with the Scripps Spelling Bee and the Mongolian Embassy. Dulguun got more than 30 students to come to DC and compete in their own bee.

OVERHEARD



“One thing people should not fear is to ask questions.”

Malala Yousafzai, the 25-year-old Pakistani human rights activist, on the importance of children’s education. Yousafzai made history when she became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient at age 17.



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

Softshell turtles got their name because they lack the hard outer scales found on the shells of most turtles.



A rare Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle

An alliance for wildlife

The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance works to save species worldwide. It teams up with local experts in "conservation hubs" to protect wildlife such as tigers in the Asian rainforest, platypuses in Australia, and penguins and polar bears in the oceans. One project is trying to save the Hawaiian crow, or Alalā, from extinction.



A tiger

Turtles make triumphant return

The San Diego Zoo is celebrating an extremely rare event: the arrival of 41 Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles. This is the first time the species, which is native to South Asia, has been successfully bred in North America.

Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles typically live at the bottom of deep rivers and streams in northern India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Adults can grow up to 3.6 feet long and weigh as much as 440 pounds. During monsoon months in central India and dry months in other regions, the turtles breed, laying up to 190 eggs in a nest on the beach and covering it with dirt to protect

the eggs from predators. When the babies hatch, they can fit in a person's palm, at 1.5 inches long.

The San Diego Zoo got its first two Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles in 1997.

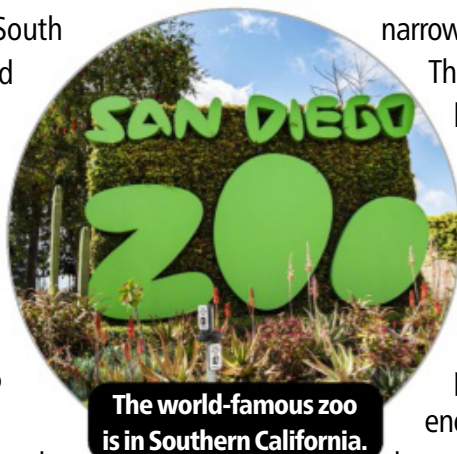
The zoo planned to breed them and hoped to learn more about the species, whose numbers had begun to drop due to pollution, destruction of their habitats, and capture by humans for their eggs, meat, or use as pets. The species is listed as endangered, and researchers don't know how many remain in the wild.

After learning that it only had female turtles, the zoo added a male to the habitat in 2001. Staff have been waiting for more than 20 years to see if

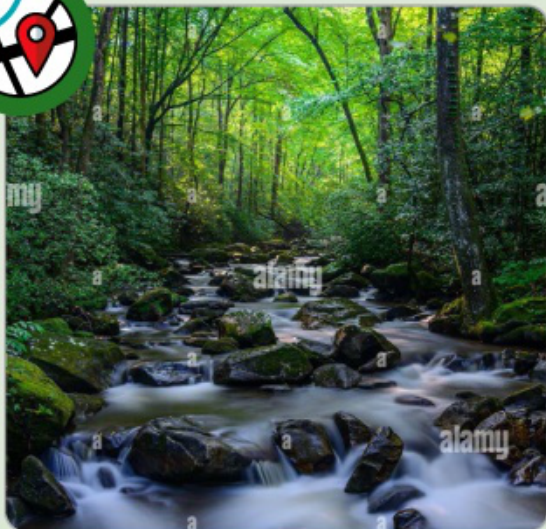
the turtles would breed. (It can take up to 10 years before the species is even old enough to mate.)

This summer, zookeepers found four nests in the enclosure. They incubated (kept at an ideal temperature) healthy eggs and hatched 11 turtles in August. Then, in September, staff members found 30 more tiny turtles that had hatched from a nest they hadn't noticed. "They are kind of cute," said zoo curator Kim Gray. "They have a funny little nose that looks like a snorkel and very long necks."

The babies were moved to an indoor habitat where they can be protected and studied. The zoo plans to give about half of the baby turtles to other zoos and aquariums that want to help protect the species. "This is a thrilling moment for us," Gray said, "and an incredible step forward in the conservation of this species."



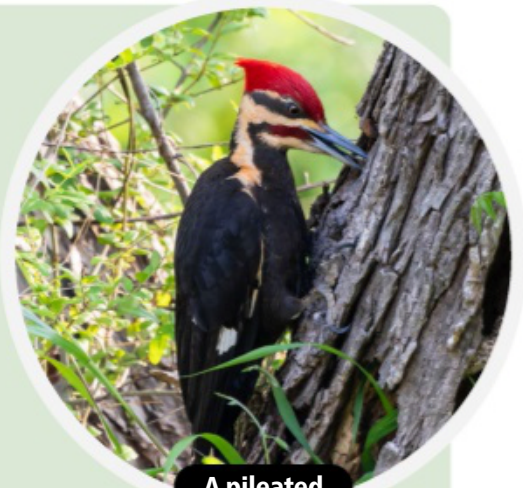
The world-famous zoo is in Southern California.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Jones Gap State Park, South Carolina

With about 13,000 acres of mountain woodlands and more than 60 miles of hiking trails, Jones Gap State Park is one of the most popular parks in South Carolina. It is home to the Middle Saluda River, the state's first designated scenic river. The park has an ecology (relationship of living things to their environment) learning center and is a good spot for watching birds, such as the pileated woodpecker. The Eastern Continental Divide runs through the park. Rainwater flows to the Gulf of Mexico on one side of the divide and the Atlantic Ocean on the other.



A pileated woodpecker



WOW!
Birds can travel as far as 16,000 miles during a single migration.

Dimming lights could help yellow-rumped warblers like this one.



A simple solution to keep birds safe

Every year, between 100 million and one billion birds die in the US from crashing into buildings, particularly windows. In spite of this sad statistic, scientists believe they have figured out a simple solution that could help save birds: Turn off the lights.

In the fall, more than 8 billion birds migrate in North America to warmer regions. During daylight hours, glass reflects the outside world, while at night, lights distract and confuse birds. Both result in birds crashing into windows, often fatally. Several species, including warblers (songbirds), the

wood thrush, and Allen's hummingbird, are more affected than others.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology (the study of birds) recommends minimizing artificial light during migration season. They advise turning off non-essential lights outside and switching off or dimming indoor lights.

In 1999, the National Audubon Society, which protects birds, launched the Lights Out Network, a national effort to provide safe air space for migrating birds. Now some major US cities, like Dallas, Philadelphia, and New York, dim the lights at night to protect birds.

Animal of the Week

Coyote



A population of about 20 to 30 coyotes has established itself in New York City. They mainly feed on scraps of human food, but a new study found that these coyotes still eat wild food, similar to the amount their non-city counterparts do.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 14 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** All over North America
- **SIZE:** Up to 53 inches long, including tail
- **DIET:** They will eat anything.
- **FUN FACT:** A coyote can run at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour.



Good week / Bad week



Epauvette sharks

Researchers have found epauvette sharks can use their paddle-shaped fins to walk on land for two hours. The sharks, which live in Australian reefs, can walk to water sources with more food, which may help them survive climate change.



Grevy's zebras

Almost 2% of Kenya's Grevy's zebras died in three months due to a drought in the country. Grevy's zebras are the world's rarest species of zebra. There are only 3,000 of them left worldwide, and 2,500 of them are in Kenya.



"Why do female cows have four udders but one calf?"

Gwen, 9, Colorado

Colleen Vana
Zookeeper,
Potawatomi Zoo

A cow has one udder that is divided into four sections, each with one teat. The mom has to make lots of milk to feed her young. Her udder is constantly filling and getting heavy. It would be quite tiring to have her young always nursing from just one section, so the cow has four.



A female cow

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, at potawatomizoo.org.



Fantastic worlds full

Video games had a humble start. Now they are a global phenomenon.

Fifty years ago, in 1972, Atari released an arcade game called Pong, in which users hit a ball back and forth between two paddles. It was a big success and helped launch video games to new levels of popularity, paving the way for thousands of games to follow.



Playing Pong in 1977

The first home consoles

In the mid-1960s, engineer Ralph Baer had an idea: to create a device for playing games at home on TV sets. The "Brown Box," the first home video game console, was released in 1972 but didn't sell well. After Pong became an arcade hit, however, Atari released a version in 1975 that could be played at home. It sold 150,000 units that year. Two years later, the company's follow-up to Pong, the Atari 2600, was also a big success. Users could switch game cartridges, making the Atari 2600 the first popular home console for playing multiple games.

Nintendo and Sega

Sales of the Atari 2600 dipped dramatically, but the video game industry rebounded in a big way with the release of the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in the US in 1985. More than 60 million NES console units were sold worldwide. Some of its best-selling games, like Super Mario Bros. and Metroid, launched franchises that are still popular today. Nintendo faced its first real rival in 1988 with the release of the Sega Genesis, which was propelled to popularity by the game Sonic the Hedgehog. In 1989, Nintendo released its first handheld console, Game Boy.



An Atari joystick



Animal Crossing: New Horizons

RECORD BREAKER

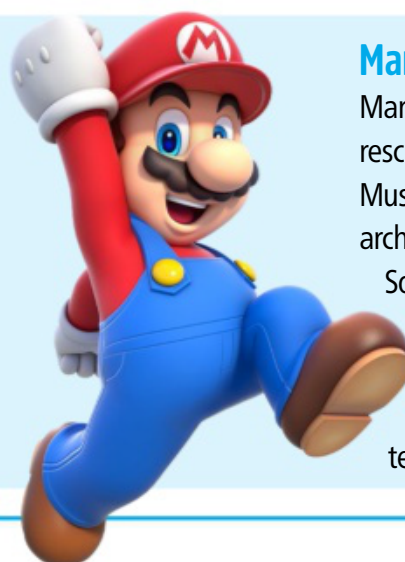
A man in Richmond, Texas, owns 20,139 video games—the world's largest collection.

WOW!

Sony's PlayStation 2 is the best-selling home video game console of all time, with more than 157 million sold.

Classic characters

Through the decades of video game creation, there have been numerous characters with pop-culture staying power. Here are a few fan favorites.



Mario

Mario is a plumber who often rescues Princess Peach, ruler of Mushroom Kingdom, from his arch-enemy, Bowser the turtle.

Some of Mario's allies include his brother, Luigi, and the dinosaur Yoshi. Gamers can also use Mario to play golf, tennis, or go kart racing.





of adventure

FUN FACT
Critics rank Nintendo 64's *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* as the best video game ever.



New formats and dimensions

The Sony PlayStation, first released in Japan in 1994, became the first real threat to the dominance of Sega and Nintendo, thanks in part to popular games such as *Crash Bandicoot* and its sequels. Around this time, video game graphics took a major technological step forward, with consoles like the PlayStation and, later, the Nintendo 64 featuring 3D graphics as opposed to the 2D of previous consoles. The PlayStation also differed from other consoles by using compact discs (CDs) rather than cartridges. While the Nintendo 64 still used cartridges, the company's next console, GameCube, switched to discs.



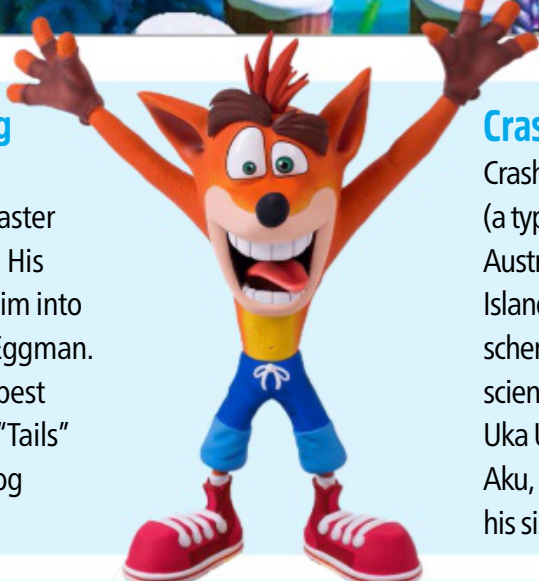
Worldwide sensation

Video games have remained wildly popular, with about 227 million Americans and more than 3.2 billion people around the world playing them each year. Sony, Nintendo, and Microsoft are major players in the industry, with their PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch, and Xbox Series X consoles. As computers and smartphones have become major platforms for gaming, the internet has added a new level of connectivity, allowing gamers from all over the world to play against each other. Esports (organized video game competitions) have also taken off, with more than 430 million people worldwide watching them in 2020. Some of the most popular video games today are *Minecraft*, *Fortnite*, *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*, *Marvel's Spider-Man*, and *Super Smash Bros*.



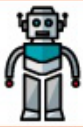
Sonic the Hedgehog

Sonic is a free-spirited hedgehog who can run faster than the speed of sound. His adventures often bring him into conflict with the evil Dr. Eggman. Sonic's allies include his best friend, the fox cub Miles "Tails" Prower, and the hedgehog Amy Rose.



Crash Bandicoot

Crash is a human-like bandicoot (a type of mammal found in Australia) who lives on N. Sanity Island. Crash often has to foil the schemes of Dr. Neo Cortex, a mad scientist, and the evil mask spirit Uka Uka. Uka Uka's twin, Aku Aku, is an ally of Crash, along with his sister Coco and friend Crunch.



DONKEY NAMES

Male donkeys are called jacks, female donkeys are jennets or jennies, and baby donkeys are foals.



Modern donkeys descend from wild donkeys in Africa and Asia.

Donkeys were tamed 7,000 years ago

For thousands of years, donkeys have played an important role in the development of human civilization. They've pulled plows through fields, carried people in carriages, and hauled goods to remote places. But until now, scientists have not known much about how these powerful animals and humans first came together. A new study found that donkeys were first domesticated (when an animal lives with humans) about 7,000 years ago and spread rapidly into Europe and Asia.

The research was compiled by scientists in 37 laboratories around the world. They analyzed the genomes (complete set of DNA, the chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing grows and develops) of 207 modern donkeys in 31 countries. They also studied DNA found in the skeletons of 31 donkeys that lived between 100 and 4,000 years ago. The team compared those with genomes taken from 15 wild equids (members of the horse family, including donkeys).

From this collection of data, the researchers established that the domestication of donkeys occurred around 5000 BCE in East Africa—about 3,000 years before humans tamed horses. It is

not clear why donkey domestication occurred, but around this time, Africa's Sahara Desert was growing and getting dryer, and donkeys could have been useful in carrying items through the desert. By about 2,500 years later, the animals had spread to Asia and Europe, where they developed into distinct populations. "Through their DNA, the animals are telling their history themselves," said Samantha Brooks, an author of the study. "We usually only get the human's side of history."



A vintage engraving of a donkey

Today, there are about 44 million donkeys around the world, and they continue to play a key role as work animals, particularly on farms.

Brooks said that understanding how donkeys developed helps scientists learn how humans and donkeys interacted in those periods. The knowledge could also help guide decisions about how to care for modern donkeys, such as how to help them adapt to a warming climate.

"Donkeys have fueled human agriculture throughout early history, and they continue to do so across the globe, especially in developing nations," Brooks said. "Donkeys are extremely hearty animals—they're real survivors."

The game of donkey polo



An ancient statue

Donkeys were not just reliable work animals—they were also used to play donkey polo in ancient China. Scientists discovered donkey bones in the tomb of a Chinese noblewoman named Cui Shi, who died in the year 878. Polo was popular at the time and usually played on horses. Because horses were larger and could be dangerous, though, some people preferred to play on donkeys.

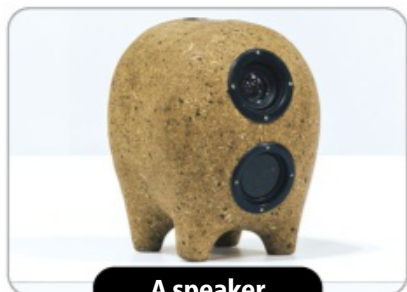
Chinese people at that time believed they would have another life after death, and it was common for them to be buried with objects or animals they wanted to take with them. Researchers think Cui Shi played donkey polo and wanted to be buried with her donkeys so she could keep playing the game in the afterlife.



Upcycled designs steal the show

A design show featuring products made from recycled materials was held during Singapore Design Week. Called Emerge, the show featured work from 55 design studios in Southeast Asia, a region that is among the world's largest producers of plastic pollution and other waste.

Among the creations were designer Adhi Nugraha's speakers and lamps, made using cow dung. Although it's a natural material, cow dung can pollute water and releases gases that contribute to climate change. Nugraha washed the dung with water, then combined it with waste plastic to create the products. Denny R. Priyatna made pen holders and



A speaker made from dung

vases from a paper-like material he developed using sawdust.

Designer David Lee made lamps from washing machine tubes, while Max Lamb manufactured a chair from recycled plastic bottles. Using techniques such as felting and knitting, Cynthia Chan made rugs from dog hair collected from pet groomers in Singapore. Each business cuts off more than two pounds of dog hair a day, which would have been thrown in the trash.

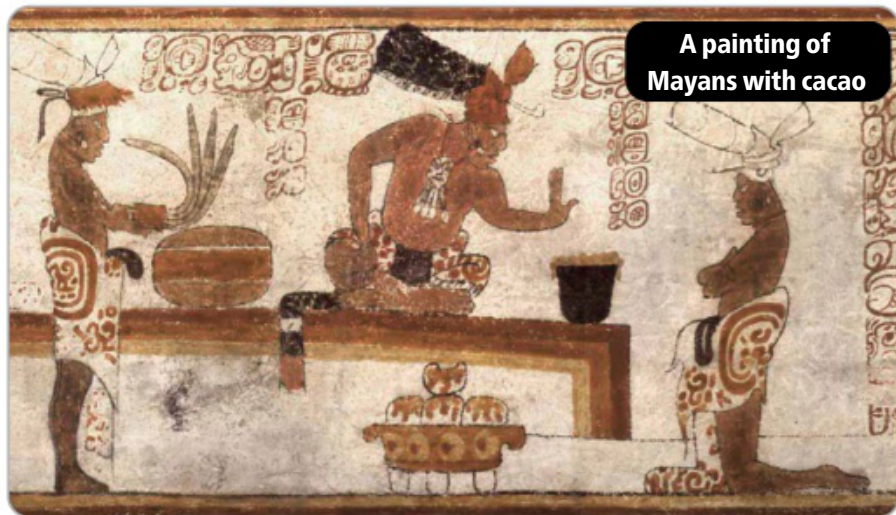
Suzy Annetta, who chose the designs for Emerge, said the show had a "trash to treasure" theme and that designers were trying to tackle the problems facing the planet. "Designers are, by nature, inquisitive—and they are problem solvers," she said.



Max Lamb builds a chair made from recycled plastic bottles.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 400 million tons of plastic waste is created each year around the world, much of it from packaging.



A painting of Mayans with cacao

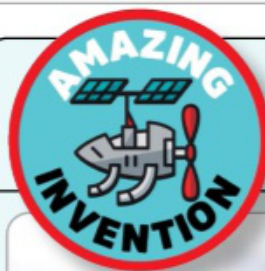
All Mayans enjoyed chocolate

A new study shows that people from all walks of life in the ancient Mayan civilization enjoyed cacao, the seed from which chocolate is made. The Maya people, who lived in what is now Central America, used cacao in ceremonies and as money. Past studies of ceremonial vessels led researchers to believe that cacao was only for wealthy or royal Mayans.

Anabel Ford, from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her colleagues analyzed 54 shards of

ceramic jars, bowls, and other vessels found in the living spaces of Mayans of different social classes, dating from the years 600 to 900. More than half contained traces of a chemical from the cacao plant, called theophylline.

This means that cacao-based traditions were probably as common among regular Mayans as they were among nobles. "It had long been assumed that cacao for the Maya was an elite exclusive," said Ford. "We now know this is not the case."



A paint that lowers temperature



The blue paint

In Atlanta, Georgia, a new type of paint was used to lower the temperature of a school playground. The school painted its black asphalt basketball courts and preschool play area with blue reflective paint that reflects or deflects heat instead of absorbing the Sun's rays.

Asphalt acts like a sponge, absorbing the heat. Before the solar-reflective paint was applied, the temperature around the asphalt was about 120° F, even though the air temperature was only 75° F. After application, the temperature around the playground dropped 12 degrees.



Photos of the week



Batter up

Sunlight streams down during a cricket match, by Muhammad Arbaz.



Shadow play

A tennis player prepares to serve, by David Gray.



Up and over

Rugby players are lifted above the pack, by Steve Haag.



MUHAMMAD ARBAZ; IAN MACNICOL; BRUCE BENNETT; STEVE HAAG; DAVID GRAY; MARIAN CHYTKA

Photos of the week



Make a splash

US swimmer Caeleb Dressel races in a butterfly event, by Ian MacNicol.



Piling on

Hockey players fall in front of the net as the puck slides in, by Bruce Bennett.



Fast forward

A race car leaves behind a trail of dust, by Marian Chytka.



FUN FACT
Portland Thorns forward Christine Sinclair is the first player to win three NWSL championships with the same team.



The Portland Thorns

FIFA World Cup news



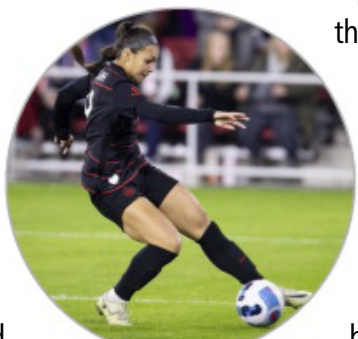
The draw for next summer's FIFA Women's World Cup is done. The US, the defending champions, will play in a group with Netherlands, Vietnam, and a team to be determined. Netherlands may be tough competition: They played the US in the last World Cup final.

Portland Thorns win third NWSL title

On October 29, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) championship match was played between the Portland Thorns and the Kansas City Current at Audi Field in Washington, DC. More than 17,000 fans were in attendance. Portland won, 2–0, and became the first team in the NWSL to earn three championship titles.

Portland had the advantage going into the match. They finished the regular season in second place and had the most goals in the league. Off the field, however, they had a tough year. They are one team at the center of an investigation into abuse in the league. For the Current, meanwhile, making the finals was a

major feat. They ended the 2021 season in last place, and this season they didn't have a win until their sixth match. They ended the regular season in fifth place. To make the finals, they beat the number one team, the OL Reign.



Sophia Smith

The championship match got off to a lightning-fast start. The first goal came four minutes into the first half, when Thorns star forward Sophia Smith got around her defender and made a breakaway. She went one-on-one with Kansas City goalkeeper Adrianna Franch before sending a successful shot into the empty net from the left side of the goal. Both teams had numerous scoring opportunities during the remainder of the half, but Franch and

Thorns goalkeeper Bella Bixby prevented any more goals. Portland's second goal came with a little more than 30 minutes left in the second half, but it was scored by the Current. Thorns attacker Yazmeen Ryan floated a ball from one side of the penalty box to the other, and after Franch tried to stop it, the ball hit Kansas City defender Addisyn Merrick and went into their goal.

After the match, Smith said, "I felt so proud of our team because we've just gone through so much—and to be able to bring this back to our fans who have stuck with us through everything this year, it means so much to us." Smith received the Championship Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, and the day before, she was named the NWSL's MVP. At 22, Smith is the youngest NWSL player to ever receive that honor.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On October 30, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, 35–13, bringing their record to 7–0. They are the only undefeated team left in the NFL this season.

Eagles receiver AJ Brown caught three touchdowns. In another game that day, the Buffalo Bills defeated the Green Bay Packers, 27–17. They now have a 6–1 record, which is the best in their conference.



Katie Ledecky

SWIMMING

At the FINA Swimming World Cup on October 29, American Katie Ledecky set a new world record in the 1,500-meter freestyle. Her time was nearly 10 seconds faster than the previous record.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

In the MLS Cup conference finals on October 30, Los Angeles FC beat Austin FC, 3–0, while the Philadelphia Union beat the defending champions New York City FC, 3–1. The winners will play for the championship on November 5.



WOW!

The longest game in NHL history took place in 1936 and went to six overtimes.



Phil Kessel

NHL player sets impressive record

Vegas Golden Knights winger Phil Kessel made National Hockey League (NHL) history when he played against the San Jose Sharks on October 25. It was his 990th consecutive NHL game, a league record. Kessel, age 35, hasn't missed a game in nearly 13 seasons. That night, he scored his 400th career goal in his team's 4–2 win.

Kessel broke a record set by Keith Yandle, who retired last season. Brent Burns of the Carolina Hurricanes is the closest active player to match Kessel's mark. As of October 31, he had played in 688 consecutive games.

Kessel had a rough start to his NHL career. During his rookie season in 2006, he was diagnosed with cancer and was out for a month. He recovered and began his streak in 2009. When asked about the secret to not missing a game, he

said, "I just try to play no matter what. I've been fortunate over the years." Kessel's lack of absences may have to do with avoiding contact on the ice. His former Bruins teammate Marc Savard said, "The funny statistic I see every year is that he's the least-hit guy in the league."

In sports, a player with the longest streak of consecutive games played is known as an Iron Man. Kessel is currently the only active Iron Man in any of the four major men's sports leagues. In Major League Baseball, Cal Ripken Jr. holds the record for consecutive games played, with 2,632. The National Football League record is 297 straight games, set by quarterback Brett Favre. In the National Basketball Association, the record holder is A.C. Green. He played 1,192 straight games during his career.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Jim Freeman**

Team: **Centennial Dash Baseball**

"Coach Jim is a great coach! He makes practice fun by doing activities that help you learn to play and work with your teammates. He's letting us play all of the positions so we can know what we like best and to give everyone a chance to learn. He is nice, encouraging, gives out a game ball every week, and sometimes gives us treats for drills and competitions at practice. He also organizes fun events like movie nights to help the team become better friends!" Chey, 10, Colorado



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Hope Hall

AGE: 17 SPORT: GOLF
TEAM: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Tee time I was born premature and didn't have good coordination when I was little. My parents got me into golf to learn motor controls. I started to get serious about the sport around eighth grade.

Big hit Last spring, I joined basketball star Steph Curry's Underrated Junior Golf Tour.

It creates opportunities for diverse players.

It was amazing. I hadn't seen so many minority golfers in one

place. We bonded so

much. Golf is a social

sport—you're with

people for maybe five hours.

It gives you time to talk and make connections.

Academic goals In college, I'm studying biomedical engineering. I want to do internships and research and maintain a high grade point average. I like to do my homework before practice.

Calming trick When I'm upset, I do counting exercises. I'll count backward from 300 by sevens. It takes your mind off things because you're trying to think about, for example, what is 196 minus 7.

Staying positive If I don't play well, I make a note of what went wrong and how I should practice to fix the problems. It helps me feel more in control. But in golf, everybody has a bad round. It doesn't mean you're a bad player—it means you're human. Even the pros don't hit every shot perfectly. Mistakes happen.

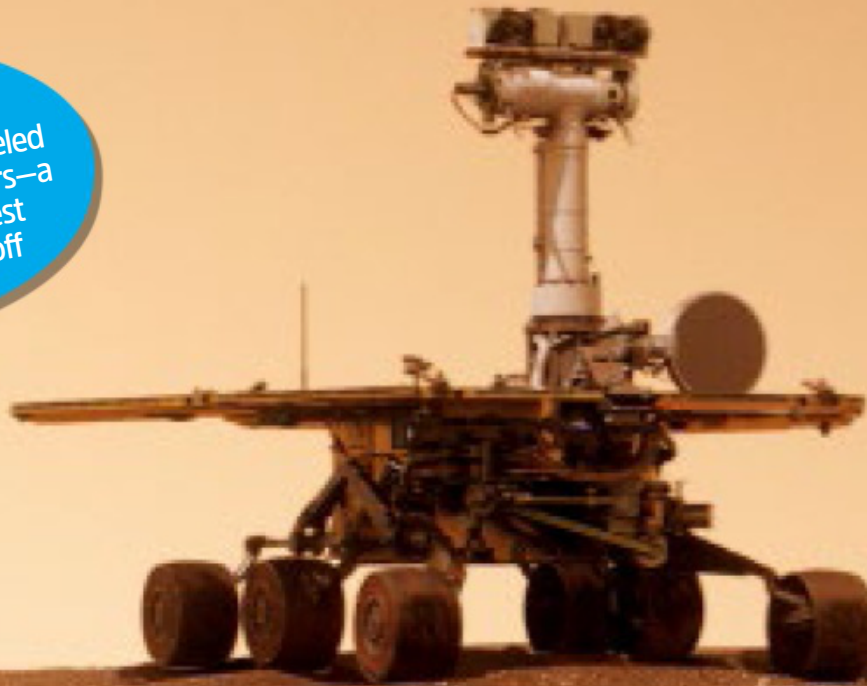
Her advice Make friends in whatever sport you're playing. It's a lot easier to go to practice on the days you don't feel like it when you have people you're genuinely excited to see, and they're going to be excited to see you too.





DID YOU KNOW?

Opportunity rover traveled 28.06 miles across Mars—a record for the longest distance traveled off Earth.



The Opportunity rover in *Good Night Oppy*

Tribute to a Mars rover

The new documentary *Good Night Oppy* tells the story of Opportunity and its unexpectedly long life on the red planet.

In 2003, NASA (the US space agency) sent a rover (wheeled robot) named Opportunity on a mission to find signs of water on Mars. The rover was expected to function for 90 days, but it worked on the planet for 15 years. Now Opportunity's story is the subject of the new documentary *Good Night Oppy*. The film is in theaters and arrives on Prime Video on November 23.

Opportunity went to Mars with its twin, Spirit. Each of the solar-powered rovers had tools for

collecting minerals and a camera for capturing images. More than 60 million miles away, teams at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, oversaw their work.

Good Night Oppy was directed by Ryan White. As a child, he loved NASA and *E.T.*, a film about a space alien. As a nonfiction filmmaker, he wanted to tell a story about space with a character at its center. "I never thought it would be a robot," he told *The Week Junior*. He said Opportunity's 15-year survival story "does something to people's hearts."



Ryan White

The film features interviews, footage from NASA, and animated scenes of the rover's adventures. A big part of the story is how Opportunity helped team members with different goals form bonds. At one point, the mission's engineers even convinced the scientists to let Opportunity take a selfie. "It's a really beautiful example of teams that are often diametrically opposed coming together," White said.

White said he hopes kids will watch the film whether they are fans of space or not. "I hope they will come see it for the adventure," he said. "But I also hope a lot of them will be inspired."

Facts about Mars

Name origin

Mars was the name of the Roman god of war. The Romans named the red planet after Mars because they thought the planet's reddish color reminded them of blood.



The god of war



Mars and its moons

Key numbers

Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun, has a circumference of 13,233 miles, making it a little more than half the size of Earth. A Mars day, called a sol, is about 40 minutes longer than a day on Earth. A year on Mars is about 687 sols.

Major milestone

In 1975, NASA sent the spacecrafts Viking 1 and Viking 2 to Mars to search for signs of life there. In July 1976, Viking 1 became the first spacecraft to successfully land on the planet. Viking 2 arrived shortly after, in September.



A photo of Mars taken by Viking 1



WOW!

There have been three *Back to the Future* films, which have earned more than \$975 million at the worldwide box office.

Back to the Future: The Musical

Back to the Future heads to Broadway

A stage adaptation of the beloved 1985 sci-fi comedy *Back to the Future* is coming to Broadway. *Back to the Future: The Musical* is set to begin performances next summer. A production has been onstage in London, UK, since last September. It won an Olivier Award (top theater award) for Best New Musical.

Bob Gale, the film's co-writer, wrote the book (story) for the show. There are some differences between the screen and stage versions, but the plot is the same. It follows teen Marty McFly, who tests out a time machine built by his scientist friend, Doc Brown, and ends up in 1955. While he's there, he meets his parents, who are teens.

Their interactions begin to alter the future, so he must get back to the present before it's too late. The film was not a musical, but some songs featured on its soundtrack are sung by the cast in the show, along with new original songs.

As in the film, the time machine is a DeLorean, a rare sports car. The car being used in the London production is a replica of a car owned by a *Back to the Future* superfan. Gale has said that when it first appears onstage and travels through time, "the audience just goes absolutely berserk."

Gale has admitted he never imagined the film would be made into a musical. However, he said, "you can't predict the future."



MOVIE NIGHT

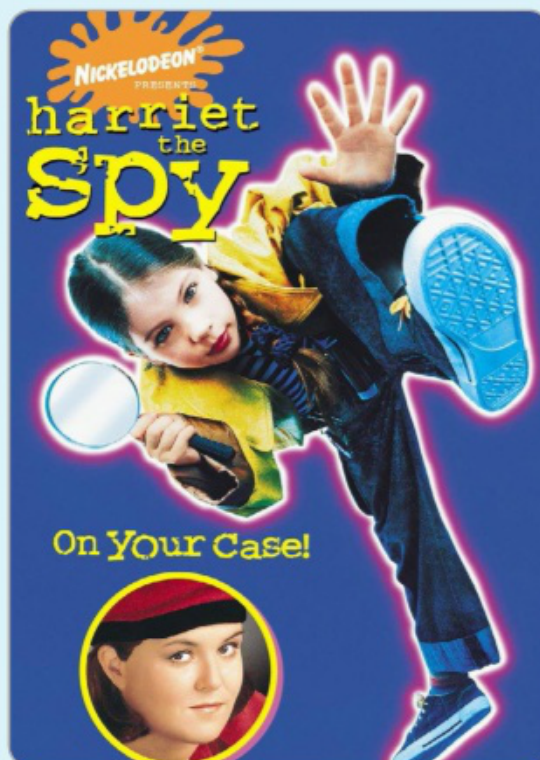
If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Harriet the Spy (1996)

PG

Available to rent or buy on all major platforms

This comedy-drama is based on the classic 1964 book of the same name by Louise Fitzhugh. It follows Harriet Welsch, an 11-year-old who lives in New York City and dreams of being a writer. Her best friends are her nanny, Ole Golly, and two kids from school, Sport and Janie. Golly tells Harriet that to be a great writer, she must observe everything. Harriet begins spying on people and putting her observations in a secret notebook. When Golly and Harriet's parents decide that Harriet is too old to still have a nanny, Golly leaves and Harriet is very sad. Things get even worse when Marion, a mean girl at school, finds Harriet's notebook and shares it with their class. All the kids turn on Harriet, including Sport and Janie. Will she be able to win back her friendships?



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Daniel Spellbound (Netflix)

In this new series, Daniel is a teenager living in a version of New York City where magic is real but hidden from the public. He finds rare ingredients and sells them to wizards. When he is recruited to track down a powerful egg, he embarks on an adventure to retrieve it before evil sorcerers do.



Monster High (Nickelodeon) Fridays at 7 pm ET

The latest addition to the *Monster High* franchise is an original animated series. It revolves around friends Clawdeen, Draculaura, Frankie, and Deuce—the teenage children of famous monsters—as they learn about themselves and how to accept what makes them unique.



The Really Loud House (Paramount+) (Nickelodeon) Thursdays at 7 pm ET

A new live-action version of the hit animated series continues the story of Lincoln Loud, a 12-year-old who has 10 sisters. When he's not navigating the chaos at home, he's getting into misadventures with his best friend, Clyde.



FUN FACT
Nintendo of America owns a portion of the Seattle Mariners baseball team.



Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope

Mario stars in crossover game

Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope is a new crossover game that was recently released for the Nintendo Switch. It is a bigger, more exciting sequel to Mario + Rabbids Kingdom Battle, which came out in 2017.

The franchise connects the Super Mario series with the Rabbids series, a spin-off of the Rayman games. Rabbids are goofy, bunny-like creatures. The centerpiece of the new game are Sparks, which are a combination of Rabbids and Lumas, the magical star creatures in the Mario franchise.

When the game kicks off, Rabbids are living in the Mushroom Kingdom, home to Mario, Peach, Luigi, and others, but the land is invaded by villain Cursa and her giant space monster. Cursa has been spreading a sludge called the

Darkmess across the galaxy and is plotting to steal the magical Sparks as part of an evil plan. Mario and his friends escape on the Rabbids' spaceship and set out to clear the galaxy of the Darkmess and rescue the Sparks.

The group travels to different planets, where they solve puzzles and battle with Cursa's forces. The game has nine playable characters, including Rabbid Mario, Rabbid Luigi, and Rabbid Peach. One playable character is teamed with two allies as they explore and fight. Combat is turn-based, and a line helps guide positioning.

Sparks of Hope does a good job of combining elements from the Mario franchise and the Rabbids series, so fans of each will have a lot to enjoy. Still, it offers plenty of instructions and explanations that make it great for newcomers, too.

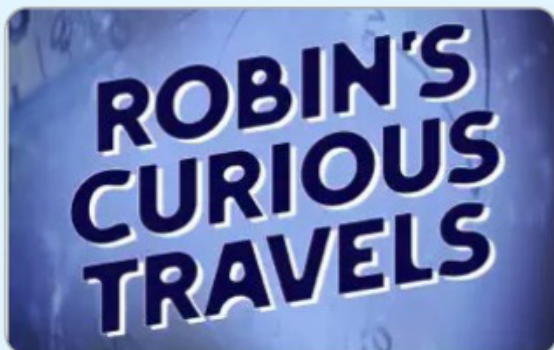


PODCAST OF THE WEEK

ROBIN'S CURIOUS TRAVELS

Apple Podcasts, Audible, iHeart

This series combines the fictional premise of time travel with real people from history. In each episode, a daring girl named Robin and her friends visit the past. They'll meet women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony, groundbreaking baseball player Jackie Robinson, and other important figures.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK



HOW I BUILT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IN MINECRAFT

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Minecraft

YouTuber ChrisDaCow built a replica of the entire universe in Minecraft, and this video is about how he did it. He shares his research process, reveals how he got the colors right, and explains how he used tools in the game to complete the task.

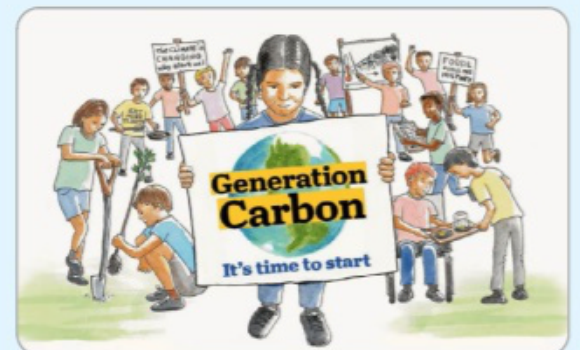


WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

THE CARBON ALMANAC

thecarbonalmanc.org/kids

Nearly 200 nations will meet at an event this month, called COP27, to discuss climate change (see the story on p2). This site offers a free e-book loaded with important information for young people about the climate and ways to help the planet. It has a podcast, too.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Leon the Extraordinary

By Jamar Nicholas

(Graphix)

Leon is a fifth-grader who wants a smartphone and superpowers. Many of his classmates have both. In the town where Leon lives, superpowers are passed down from generation to generation. Although Leon isn't one of the "Supers," the name everyone uses to describe the heroes and villains, he still wears a cape. The Supers tease him at school, and Clementine, who can shape-shift, pulls an especially mean prank on him. But Leon is determined to stay true to himself. When a villain turns everyone with a phone into mind-controlled zombies, he gets his chance to save the day. There's a mind-blowing twist at the end. This graphic novel is the first in a new series and will make you think about what it means to be a hero.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Jamar Nicholas

We spoke to the author of *Leon the Extraordinary*.

What makes Leon special?

Leon shows that you don't need fancy powers to make a difference in the world.

Did you dream of being a superhero?

Yes! I wanted to be Spider-Man when I was young. He could save the day, even when the odds were against him.

What was your favorite book as a child?

My favorite book was *Merle, the High-Flying Squirrel*, by Bill

Peet. It's the story of a little squirrel going on a big adventure and finding a world much bigger than himself. Merle realizes that the world isn't so scary after all. The book has amazing illustrations.

What superpower would you want?

I would love the power of teleportation, so I could travel to anywhere in the world in an instant.

Apple or pumpkin pie?

Can I pick sweet potato pie?



4 popular series that have new books

The wait is over! Follow some of your favorite characters on new adventures.



Key Player

By Kelly Yang

(Scholastic Press)

The fourth book in the Front Desk series focuses on soccer.

Mia and her friends are excited about the Women's World Cup being held in California. The US is playing China. Mia comes up with a clever solution to boost her grade in gym and learn about the World Cup players. Ages 8–12



Dog Squad 2: Cat Crew

By Chris Grabenstein

(Random House Books for Young Readers)

The second book in this series that's full of dogs and cats may

be even more hilarious and action-packed than the first. Fred, a stray who was the star of the hit streaming show *Dog Squad*, is now working on a new show. But the animal trainer there is up to no good. Can Fred and his new feline friends save the day? Ages 8–12



Ways to Share Joy

By Renée Watson,

illustrated by Nina Mata

(Bloomsbury Children's Books)

Ryan is in fifth grade in this third book of the *Ways to Share Joy* series, and a new baby sister has made her the middle child instead of the youngest. Two friends are competing for her attention, which she finds stressful. She calls on her usual charm and optimism to help her adjust. Ages 7–10



Spy School Project X

By Stuart Gibbs

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Ben finds himself in one of the most dangerous situations yet in the 10th book of this popular mystery series. Ben's enemies accuse him of being at the center of a cyber conspiracy, and he must go to great lengths to try to clear his name. The suspense will keep you turning the pages. Ages 8–12

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Leon the Extraordinary*.

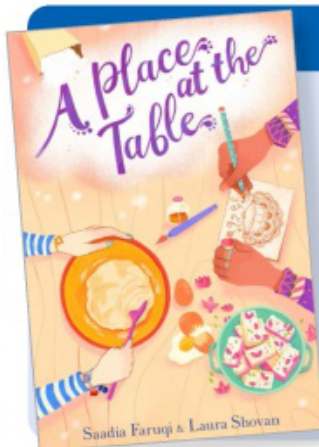
For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with Extraordinary in the subject line. Enter by midnight on November 25. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

READER RECOMMENDS

A Place at the Table By Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan

"This book is great for foodies! Sara and Elizabeth are starting sixth grade. Sara, whose mom teaches the South Asian cooking class, is an unfriendly girl who misses her old school. Elizabeth is a bubbly and kind girl who loves cooking class and misses Nan, who died recently. Sara and Elizabeth soon find out they have more in common than they think and become best friends." Amara, 11, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...



**LOTS
TO READ**

There are more than 5,000 weekly newspapers printed in the US.

Try writing an editorial

One way to take a stand is to share your opinion through a written article.

If you feel strongly about an issue, writing an editorial is one way to express your opinion. People write editorials to explain the reason they feel the way they do and to encourage others to think more deeply about an issue. In newspapers, editorials run in a section that is separate from the news sections to distinguish opinion from reported stories. Here's how to get started.

Choose a topic

Your topic could be your opinion about something that's happening in your school or community. Or it could be a way for you to comment on current events happening in the US or around the world. For example, you may have an opinion about proposed changes to your school's playground or you may want to share your thoughts on climate change. If you don't have an idea in mind, make a list of topics that are important to you. Read through *The Week Junior* to see if a story makes you feel passionately about a news event.

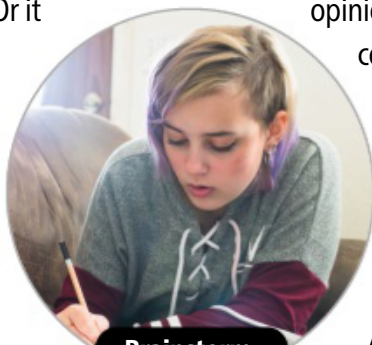
Start writing

An important part of your editorial is the title or "headline," as it's called in journalism. It should catch the attention of readers so they will want to stop and read what you have to say. Next, write your introduction paragraph. It should state what you're

writing about, why it's important, and what your opinion is. In the following paragraphs, you'll want to give examples that support your opinion, such as a news story, a study, or a report. Each example can be its own paragraph. As you write, focus on showing why it's important to care about this issue.

Share personal experiences

When writing your editorial, it's OK to share your own experience. One of the examples that support the opinion you give in your introduction paragraph could be a story from your life. By recounting a personal experience, you'll help readers understand where you're coming from, and you may inspire them to want to take a stand as well.



**Brainstorm
ideas first.**

End on a strong note

After you have made your supporting points, finish with a paragraph that states your conclusion. This should be a call to action for your readers, such as, "We must act now." Give readers steps they can take to help support your cause or opinion. Once you're happy with your editorial, you could start by sharing it with your family or a teacher. If you have a school newspaper, find out if it accepts student editorials. You could also ask an adult if they could help you submit your editorial to a local newspaper that publishes opinion articles.

4 other activities you might enjoy

If you liked writing an editorial, here are some other ways to share your opinion and take a stand.

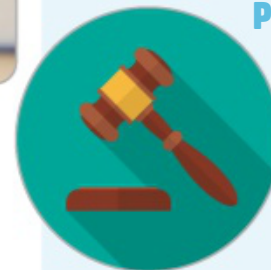
Be part of a debate team

At a debate competition, teams from different schools or clubs present their arguments for and against important issues they are assigned to speak about.



Participate in a mock trial

Some schools have mock trial clubs, which teach students what a



real trial is like. You and your teammates get the details of a case and are assigned to argue one side or the other in a competition.

Run for office

If your school has a student government or council, you could run for office or ask to attend meetings. At the meetings, you might be able to express your opinion about issues under discussion in the school.



Practice being a lawmaker

Clubs that are called Model Congress or Model United Nations



offer young people the chance to work together to solve challenges the country is facing as if they were US lawmakers or UN delegates.



DID YOU KNOW?

Shibori is a Japanese tie-dyeing technique that uses indigo dye.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Make a traditional Japanese shibori bag

What you need

- Small 100% cotton white bag, washed and dried
- Craft sticks
- Rubber bands
- Drop cloth (optional)
- Rubber gloves
- Navy blue fabric dye, mixed with water according to the package directions

Instructions

1. Starting at the bottom of the cotton bag, fold about an inch of the bag up toward the top. Place a craft stick in the fold you just made, then flip the bag over and make the same 1-inch fold and add another craft stick. (This is called an accordion fold.) Continue folding and placing craft sticks on each side until the entire bag is folded up. When you reach the top of the bag, secure the folds and sticks by tightly wrapping a few rubber bands around the bag.

2. Take the bag and the dye outside to a grassy area, or spread out a drop cloth inside to work on so you don't stain any surfaces. Wearing rubber gloves, begin to apply dye to both sides of the bag. Apply just enough dye so you do not see any white left on the bag. Let the dye dry overnight.

3. When the dye has dried, remove the rubber bands and craft sticks.

4. The bag should look striped at this point. To get a checkered pattern, repeat the accordion fold

technique, this time going from left to right, instead of bottom to top as you did before. Secure the folds with rubber bands.

5. Again, apply the dye to the edges of the bag that are showing, but do not apply too much.

6. Allow the dye to dry overnight.

7. When the dye has dried, wash the bag on its own in a washing machine. Allow it to air-dry.

Adapted with permission from *Upcycle It! Crafts for Kids*, by Jennifer Perkins, published by Rockridge Press. Copyright © 2022 by Callisto Media, Inc. All rights reserved.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

PICKLE LEFTOVER VEGETABLES

If you have vegetables in your fridge and you're not sure you will eat them before they spoil, consider pickling them. Pickling vegetables, such as carrots, cucumbers, and green onions, makes them taste delicious and preserves them so you have more time to eat them. This keeps spoiled vegetables from ending up in landfills. Ask an adult to help you get started by boiling a half cup of white vinegar, a half cup of water, and a teaspoon of salt in a medium saucepan. Slice a vegetable into small pieces and fill a jar halfway with them. Pour the vinegar mixture into the jar, seal with a lid, and refrigerate. For the best flavor, wait 48 hours before serving.



Pickled vegetables are a crunchy snack.



Puzzles

Word search

Can you find all these words about old-time trains in the grid? The words are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ALL ABOARD
BERTH
CABOOSE
CHUG
COACH
COAL
COUPLING
CREW

DEPOT
DIESEL
DINING CAR
ENGINE
EXPRESS
JUNCTION
LOCOMOTIVE
PORTER

RAILS
SIGNAL
STEAM
TICKET
TRACKS
TUNNEL
WHISTLE
YARD

FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

E G I M N O R T

HOW

E P R

E E C

I ☐ ☐ I ☐ ☐ ON

A	N	O	I	T	C	N	U	J					D	R	A	Y	
	T	G	O	W	O	L	D							D	L		
	E	R	E	N	M	P	I							L	L		
	S	R	A	A	T	P	E							I	A		
	C	E	E	C	E	K	S	D	E	C	H	T	R	E	B	O	
	F	T	X	I	K	N	E	V	I	T	O	M	O	C	O	L	C
	S	R	P	I	C	S	L	S	U	H	H	U	E	D	A	T	H
E	F	O	R	D	I	N	I	N	G	C	A	R	P	N	R	B	
C	I	P	E	R	T	S	N	T	T	A	R	A	G	L	D	A	O
W	H	I	S	T	L	E	C	K	S	O	A	I	C	R	I	O	S
		U	S	S	L					C	S	L	T		H	N	E
			G	S							A	S			E	N	G

FILL IN THE BLANKS

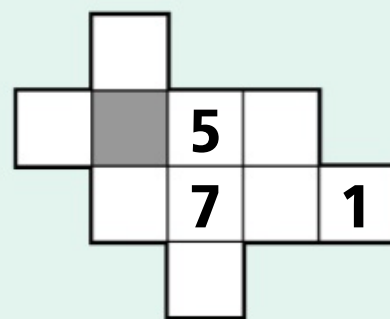
Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word uses every other letter of the first word, like CHAIR and CAR. Only the letters on the **red blanks** are used in the shorter word.

1. After I stubbed my toe, Mom ran into the _____, opened the freezer, and brought me some _____ in a towel to keep it from swelling.
2. The doctor said the cough medicine might make me sleepy, but if I became _____ than I liked, I should take only half a _____ before reading or playing games.
3. My brother works weekends _____ broken appliances for neighbors so he can _____ a little extra money.

**ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.**

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of a pizza that looks like a Pac-Man appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Potato with his new family

Earless cat finds a home—and fame

Life hasn't been easy for Potato the cat. Growing up in Hong Kong, he lived on the streets as a stray. When he was rescued, vets discovered he had tumors (harmful growths) in his ears, which led to his ears being removed. Fortunately, Potato can still hear and now lives happily with his new owners, Carl and Sarah, and another cat named Horlick. They created an Instagram account under Potato's name where they post photos of their beloved pet. Potato has become a social media star and now has nearly 23,000 followers.

Incredible bread art

A mother-daughter team has made a life-size replica of the *Star Wars* character Han Solo from an unlikely material: bread. Visitors are amazed that the 6-foot-tall sculpture, dubbed "Pan Solo" and depicting a scene from *The Empire Strikes Back*, is made of dough, said Hanalee Pervan, head baker at One House Bakery in California. It took Pervan and her mom a month to build it. They previously made "Baby Dough-Da" and a "Game of Scones" display.



Halloween hay bales

Every year, artist Jean Marie Smith gets into the Halloween spirit by creating supersize sculptures from hay bales. Her nieces and nephews help plan the characters, and the finished works go on display at a Kentucky nature reserve. Her hay-bale characters have included the video game character Kirby, Pikachu from Pokémon, and Frankenstein's monster.

Real OR fake?



Was this parrot too popular?

No contest for a big parrot

The 2022 Bird of the Year competition in New Zealand made headline news after the kakapo, the world's heaviest species of parrot, was banned from the contest. The kakapo is the only species to be voted New Zealand's favorite bird in two separate years, 2008 and 2020. But organizers of the contest kept the species out this year so voters would consider other birds that may have been overlooked. What do you think? Does this sound true, or are we hatching a lie?*



Therapy lizard calms visitors

Taz isn't a typical lizard. Rather than spending his days sunning himself and snacking on flies, he is a therapy lizard for a charity called Disability Support in Nottingham, England. Staff noticed that the black-and-white tegu lizard seems to have a calming effect on people who visit the organization's community center. Charlotte Throssel, the center's manager, said, "When they get their courage up to stroke him, you can see everything just slow and relax instantly."

*Real! The kakapo was indeed banned this year. "If the same bird keeps winning every year, that might make it not so interesting," an organizer said. Reactions were mixed. "The right decision," one person said. "He was robbed," said another.



Your turn

Editor's note

Have you ever written an editorial? That's a type of writing in which you express your view and back it up with evidence, in an attempt to persuade other people to agree with you. Our How To article on page 24 has tips to get you started with opinion writing, plus four more ideas for joining together with other kids who want to learn how to make a strong argument. You could participate in a debate club or student government, for example. With the US midterm elections coming up on Tuesday, November 8, you will be hearing candidates making arguments on a wide variety of issues that affect daily life in our nation. Do you agree with them, or do you disagree? If you were debating them, what points would you make? Now and always, I hope you will think carefully about issues you care about, form your own opinion, and speak up to have your say!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Fundraising for the community

“I did my first fundraiser last year when I was 10, about to turn 11. There was a little tiny house village in my area being planned for people who are experiencing homelessness. Before residents can build a tiny home, they work and invest in their community and live in conestoga huts. For my birthday in November, I started a GoFundMe page to raise money to build a conestoga hut. By January, we had raised more than \$2,000. That money covered the costs of building a whole new hut! Most people donated \$20 or \$30. It's cool to see how fast donations add up. I want to do a birthday fundraiser again this year to



Evan, 11, Wisconsin

buy winter clothing for people in need. I believe everyone has the right to a warm home and the right to warm clothes.”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What often runs in the winter but never walks?
Your nose!



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Project Giving Kids

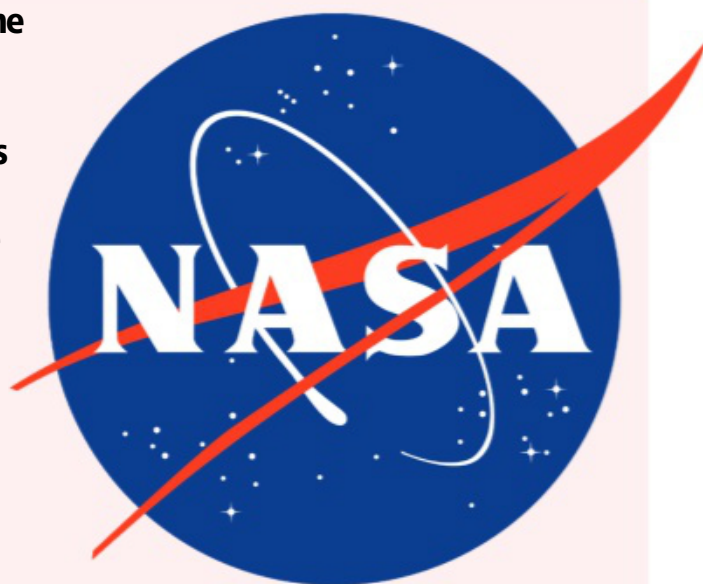
This organization's goal is to help young people volunteer for causes they care about. It pairs children with volunteer opportunities that focus on the group's core causes, such as fighting hunger and protecting the planet. It helps children who are volunteering track their service hours, awards badges for their progress, and holds education sessions.

Find out more at projectgivingkids.org.



NATIONWIDE CONTEST OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to pitch an idea to NASA? The US space agency's Power to Explore Student Challenge calls on students to learn about Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) and design a new RPS-powered mission for space exploration. Entries are due by January 17, 2023, and will be judged in three categories: grades K-4, grades 5-8, and grades 9-12. The grand prize winner from each category will receive a trip to NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Find out more, including how to enter, at futureengineers.org/power-to-explore.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"Seeing the trolls in real life at the Maine Botanical Gardens was so cool! It is such a special place—everyone should visit!"

Rania, 10, Sahil 9, and Imran, 7, Virginia

"I made the pull-apart apple bread! It was so good. I used apples I got from apple picking at a local farm." Abby, 10, Massachusetts



"I have collected many *The Week Junior* magazines over the past two years. I look forward to it every week." Isaac, 11, Missouri

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: If you could visit any planet, which one would you choose?

"One of those planets where NASA thinks we could live on in some distant galaxy."

"I would want to go to a planet in a different solar system."

"The Moon, because I would help people learn more about it by exploring it."

In the big debate, we asked: Should middle and high schools have recess?

"Yes, recess could help middle and high school students lower stress levels."

"Maybe. Students could get some exercise."

"Yes, but not as long."

"Yes, everyone needs a breath of fresh air!"

Now tell us: What animal would you want your teacher to adopt as a classroom pet and why?



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Simons**

School: **Stratford School**

"I am so lucky to have Mrs. Simons as my fourth grade teacher! She has a great sense of humor. For example, when we are writing our history notes, she jokes that we have to do 10 more pages! Also, she has two fish, Nemo and Terry, as our classroom pets. She lets us feed the fish, which is a lot of fun. Finally, Mrs. Simons is very organized. In our classroom, everything has a place, and it is always clean."

Rohan, 9, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

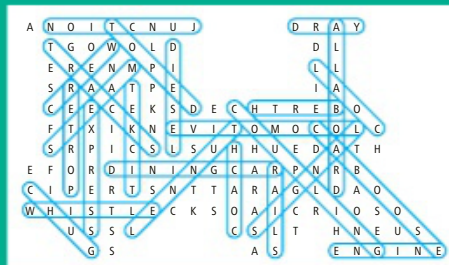
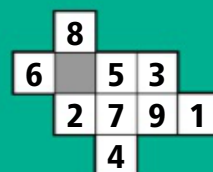


Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search
Unused letters:
A Golden Spike finished the first tracks across the USA.

Four in a row
homework, emperor
genetic, ignition

Fill in the blanks
1. kitchen, ice
2. drowsier, dose
3. repairing, earn



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Day of the Dead 2 True 3 a) Bunnies 4 c) Washington, DC 5 False. It dodged space junk. 6 Three 7 b) 1985 8 True 9 *Good Night Oppy* 10 False. All Mayans enjoyed cacao. 11 Africa 12 A smartphone 13 a) Car 14 True 15 b) Han Solo

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which Mexican holiday includes altars with photos, food, and other items?

2 True or false? A species of shark in Australia has been found to have the ability to walk on its fins.

True ☐ False ☐

3 In the Rabbids video game series, Rabbids are creatures similar to which animal?

a) Bunnies b) Cats c) Dogs

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 In which US city did Erdem Dulguun organize the first official national spelling bee for Mongolian immigrants?

a) Chicago b) San Francisco

c) Washington, DC

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? The International Space Station was recently struck by space junk.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The Portland Thorns are the first team to win how many National Women's Soccer League championships?

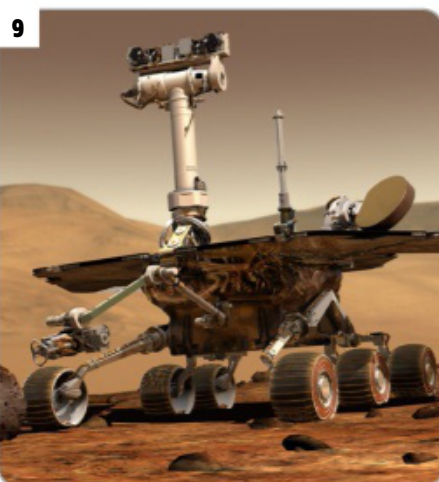
7 When was the Nintendo Entertainment System first released in the US?

a) 1972 b) 1985 c) 1994

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 True or false? The Mauna Loa volcano on Hawaii's Big Island is the world's largest.

True ☐ False ☐



9 What is the title of the documentary film about the Mars rover named Opportunity?

10 True or false? Only wealthy Mayans enjoyed cacao, the seed chocolate is made from.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Donkeys were first domesticated on which continent?

12 In the graphic novel *Leon the Extraordinary*, Leon wishes he had superpowers as well as what device?

13 In the movie and musical *Back to the Future*, the time machine is made out of which type of vehicle?

a) Car

b) Plane

c) Train

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles were recently bred in North America for the first time.

True ☐ False ☐

15 A mother and daughter made a bread sculpture depicting which character from *Star Wars*?

a) Darth Vader

b) Han Solo

c) Boba Fett

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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It's amazing what happens when you open the world to young minds

Reading sparks a lifetime love of learning, gets kids on track for success, and helps them identify and follow their passions. There are stories in *The Week Junior* that speak to every child and inspire them to keep reading.

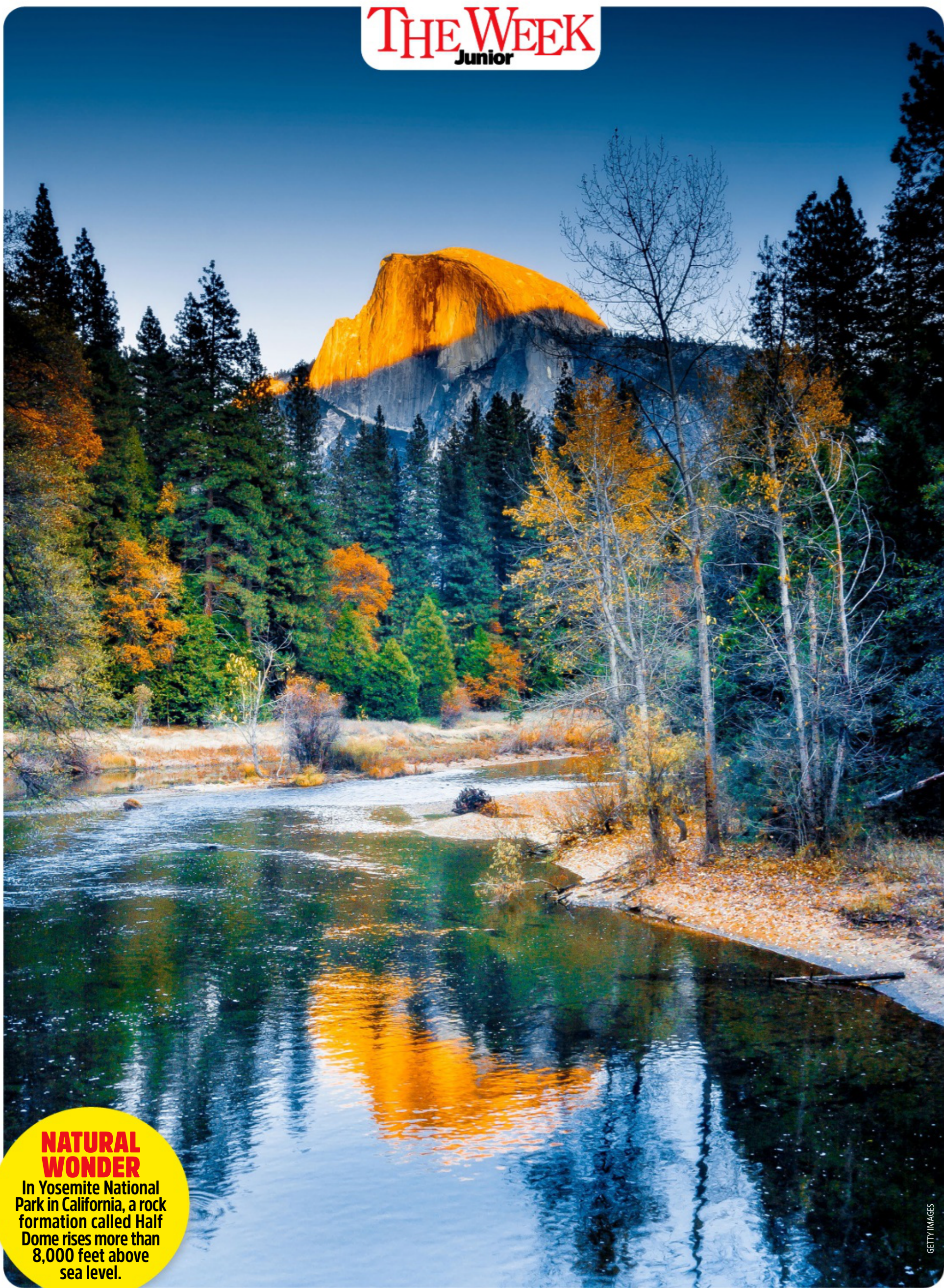
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NATURAL WONDER

In Yosemite National Park in California, a rock formation called Half Dome rises more than 8,000 feet above sea level.